



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA PRESENTS TRUMPET VIRTUOSO GABRIELE CASSONE IN FOUR BAY AREA PERFORMANCES FEBRUARY 11 THROUGH 15

January 27, 2011, San Francisco, CA -- Music Director Nicholas McGegan and Philharmonia Baroque present a program that highlights a rarely heard period instrument – the keyed trumpet – played by the Italian virtuoso and leading scholar on historical brass instruments, Gabriele Cassone.

Cassone is a sought after performer for both leading period instrument orchestras (including the English Baroque Soloists and Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra) and contemporary music ensembles. He was selected by Luciano Berio to premiere his works for solo trumpet: *Sequenza X* for solo trumpet, and *Kol-Od*, which he performed with L'Ensemble Intercontemporain under the direction of Pierre Boulez. Cassone is also the author of *The Trumpet Book*, a study of the history, repertoire, and technique of the trumpet.



With Philharmonia Baroque, Cassone performs Johann Nepomuk Hummel's Concerto for Keyed Trumpet. Composed in 1803 – and long forgotten until its rediscovery in 1958 – the piece is now established as among the most popular in the trumpet repertoire. Because historically accurate keyed trumpets are so rare, specially built modern valve trumpets are often used to play this work in its original key, E major. For this program, however, the keyed trumpet takes its rightful place. Introduced around 1800 by the Viennese court trumpeter Anton Weidinger, the keyed trumpet marked a step in the evolution of the horn. It lies between the natural horns of the Baroque – those usually heard in a Philharmonia Baroque concert – and the valved brass instruments of more recent times.

The program includes two other distinguished works: Symphony No. 1 by Felix Mendelssohn, composed when he was just 15, and Symphony No. 2 by Louis Spohr. Spohr may not be as familiar to us as Mendelssohn, but his contemporaries held him in high esteem and he is known today as the “Forgotten Master.”

“Thirty years ago, the Orchestra played only Baroque music,” says Music Director Nicholas McGegan. “Then, in about 1988, we ventured a little later and played Mozart. In the 1990s, we explored the music of Mendelssohn and did a memorable performance of Berlioz’s *Les Nuits d’Eté* with the late Lorraine Hunt Lieberson. Last season, we pushed our period instrument boundary still further with an evening of Brahms. This season, we are pushing the boundaries of our repertoire

again, playing music by three Romantic composers from Germany and Austria – Mendelssohn, whom we know very well, and two new acquaintances, Hummel and Spohr... I am thrilled that Gabriele Cassone will be playing a rare period instrument – the keyed trumpet – with us in Hummel's delightful concerto."

For more information, visit www.philharmonia.org or call (415) 252-1288.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHO

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra – 30th Anniversary Season

Nicholas McGegan, *Music Director*

Gabriele Cassone, *keyed trumpet*

WHAT

SPOHR: Symphony No. 2 in D minor, Op. 49

HUMMEL: Concerto for Keyed Trumpet in E major

MENDELSSOHN: Symphony No 1. in C minor, Op. 11

WHEN/WHERE

Friday, February 11, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

San Francisco – Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Avenue)

Saturday, February 12, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)

Sunday, February 13, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)

Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

Atherton – The Center for Performing Arts (555 Middlefield Road)

TICKETS

Tickets are priced at \$25 to \$80 and are available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com. If available, Student Rush tickets are \$10 and go on sale one hour before the start of the concerts.

To learn more about all of Philharmonia Baroque's concerts, visit the Orchestra's website at www.philharmonia.org.

SPECIAL EVENT (NEW)

"Philharmonia Baroque Master Class and Lecture Series" presents *A Masterclass with Gabriele Cassone*

Monday, February 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

San Francisco – Recital Hall, San Francisco Conservatory of Music (50 Oak Street)

During Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra's February concert set, Gabriele Cassone, the Italian virtuoso and scholar of historical brass instruments leads a master class for Conservatory trumpet students. Free and open to the public. as part of the new "Philharmonia Baroque Master Class and

Lecture Series" at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The Series is free, open to the public and features the orchestra's eminent guest artists.

ABOUT

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary Season in 2010/11, San Francisco's Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra is dedicated to historically-informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early Romantic music on period instruments. Led by Music Director Nicholas McGegan since 1985, Philharmonia Baroque is recognized as one of the finest chamber orchestras, as well as one of the most exciting period-instrument ensembles in the country. Drawing on musicians from all over the United States and abroad, Philharmonia Baroque performs eight concert programs in four Bay Area cities each season and regularly tours the U.S. and internationally. Attracting such talented guest artists as mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, conductor Jordi Savall, violinist Monica Huggett, recorder player Marion Verbruggen and soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, the group has its own professional chorus, has commissioned new music for period instruments, and has collaborated with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Alonzo King LINES Ballet and Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco among others. Philharmonia Baroque's 24 recordings have won or been nominated for numerous awards.

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For a complete biography, visit www.philharmonia.org/about/history/.

Press photos are available at www.philharmonia.org/press-room/resources.

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